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SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—" May I know whether compulsory starvation is not necessary for compulsory education?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR :— " I do not understand the relevancy of the question."

DR. SIR A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" Will the Government be pleased to investigate the possibility of giving mid-day meals only to deserving persons from the point of view of public health and nutrition? Will the Government consider giving effect to such a scheme in selected areas at any rate?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR :— " It is not possible, Sir."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Is the Hon. Minister for Education satisfied that no progress in compulsory education is possible unless Government provide mid-day meals at least to the classes of children mentioned by the hon. Dr. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliyar and in view of the fact that no compulsion can be enforced unless this provision is made, will the Hon. the Minister at least take the trouble and accept the suggestion of hon. Dr. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliyar and see that people who are really indigent are fed?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR :— " While Government will readily accept the position that the provision of mid-day meals will increase the strength and attendance at schools, they will not accept the position that no progress in compulsory education is possible without such provision."

K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" If the Hon. the Minister for Education is of the view that first priority should be given to education, then is it not his responsibility to improve the attendance at schools by providing this mid-day meals?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR :— " I am cent per cent with the hon. Member but there are other departments and schemes for which allocation of funds has to be made."

Subsidy for constructing tanks for irrigation.

* 59 *Q.*—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that in the new scheme sanctioned by the Government to subsidize the sinking of new wells, provision has been made for subsidizing the construction of new tanks also in the district of South Kanara ; and

(*b*) if so, whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government for granting such a subsidy for constructing tanks for irrigation purposes in all the other districts also?

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THE HON. SRI KALA VENKATA RAO :—" (a) Yes. The new scheme provides for the grant of subsidies in South Kanara not only for the construction of new irrigation wells and tanks but also for repairing old irrigation tanks.

" (b) The same provision has been made in the new scheme for Malabar also, and subsidies will be granted in that district for constructing new irrigation tanks and repairing existing irrigation tanks. There is no proposal to grant subsidies in the other districts either for the construction of new tanks or for repairs to old tanks."

(At this stage, the Hon. the President occupied the Chair.)

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I ask the Hon. Minister for Land Revenue whether he will have the question of extending such facilities to other districts examined? " 12 noon.

THE HON. SRI KALA VENKATA RAO :—" The conditions in Malabar and South Kanara being entirely different from other districts this innovation has had to be made there."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Is not the Hon. Minister aware that there are also private tanks and wells besides minor irrigation works in other districts as well? "

THE HON. SRI KALA VENKATA RAO :—" Digging of wells in South Kanara and Malabar is difficult and therefore this extra provision has been made. In other districts it is not so difficult to dig wells. The scheme being entirely for the digging of wells, the question of tanks cannot be considered."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know whether the Hon. Minister for Land Revenue is not aware that digging of wells in the Ceded Districts is equally difficult? "

THE HON. SRI KALA VENKATA RAO :—" Unfortunately in the Ceded Districts, God has not given sufficient rains to form tanks."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Is not the Hon. Minister for Land Revenue aware that a perusal of the records will show that construction of tanks is one of the methods by which water can be conserved in the Ceded Districts? "

THE HON. SRI KALA VENKATA RAO :—" Yes. That will come under the Tank Restoration Scheme and not under the Well Subsidy Scheme and we will do our best."

Water rates charged in different districts.

* 60 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the water rates charged in the several districts are the same;

(b) if the answer to (a) is in the negative, what the basis is for fixing them;